The Beatles MONTHLY BOOK

No. 41

DEC. 1966

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The Beatles BOOK

The Beatles' Own Monthly Magazine

No. 41, DECEMBER, 1966

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EDITORIAL

Hi!

AT THE MOMENT it's a race against time. Everyone, E.M.I., Brian Epstein and the Beatles themselves, would like to have a new single released in time for Christmas. But the boys have set themselves tremendously high standards, as you know only too well, they will not allow anything to be released which is not good enough.

THEY WERE DUE to start work on new tracks in the studio during the last week in November. There are more dates booked in December, but whether or not we shall have a single in the can in time, is very much in the laps of the Beatles themselves.

I CAN TELL YOU they have completed several new songs. George, John and Paul have all been working on new material and have come up with some very good new ideas. Paul played me two of his and they are real knockouts. Both of them have unusual twists. I hope they do get at least a single finished because Christmas without a new Beatle release won't be the same at all.

DETAILS OF HOW TO ENTER for our great, ninth Beatles Book Competition are on page 31. We're asking you to DRAW A BEATLE. But please do read the rules, which are designed to help your entries to arrive here in good condition. If Beatle people do send in drawings which are very big, they may well get damaged in the post. Do please note that we can't return any entries, so don't send in some special painting that you want to keep yourself, because we won't be able to send it back to you after the competition is over. I am saying all these things now because I don't want anyone to be upset at the end of this competition; I just want eight happy winners.

I'VE ALREADY HAD A LOT OF LETTERS from readers about the Beatles Christmas Extra. I am very pleased that you like it. If anyone hasn't been able to get it from their local newsagent yet, you can always get it from us. Details of how to do this are on Page 12.

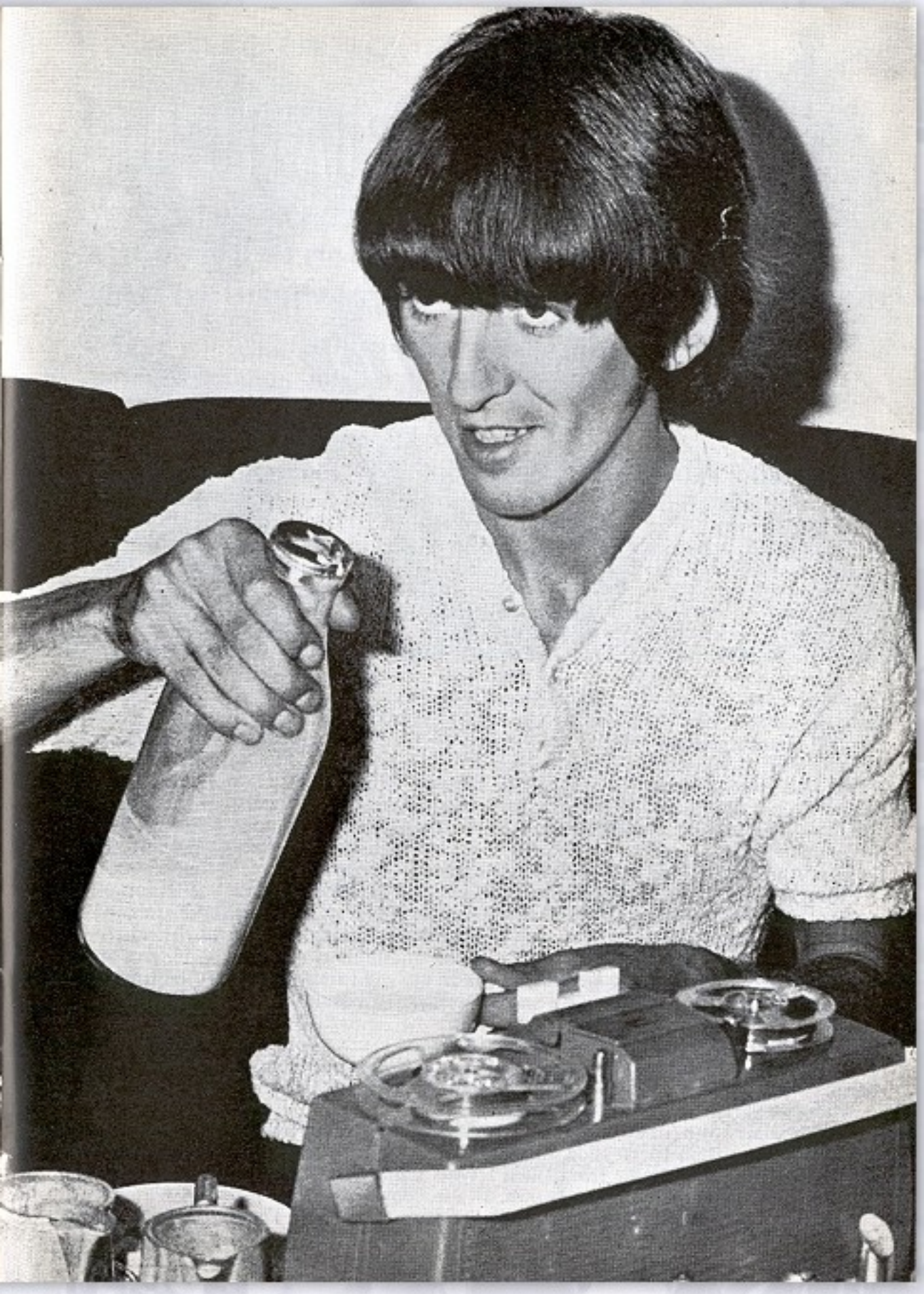
THIS ISSUE has the last in our series of special interviews with the Beatles. This month Ringo is the Beatle who comes up with some unusual and sometimes startling comments on his life now and the pop world in general.

I KNOW THAT ALL OF YOU will want to join me in wishing John, Paul, George and Ringo a Very Happy Christmas and I, and all the Beatles Book staff, would like to pass on our greetings to you. HAVE A VERY NICE CHRISTMAS AND A GREAT NEW YEAR.

See you in '67.

Johnny Dean Editor.

"Want a glass of milk?" George asks our reporter, as he listened to some tape-recordings George had made.



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NEWSLETTER

December, 1966

DEAR BEATLE PEOPLE,

It's quite possible that for the past couple of months you have felt that The Beatles had ceased to exist. George and Patti were across on the far side of the globe in the Bombay region of India. John was completing his contribution to "How I Won The War". Paul was at home, settling into his new St. John's Wood house and Ringo and Maureen were holidaying together.

But by the time you read this Newsletter all four boys will be back together again in or close to London. The Beatles are back in existence even if we can't hope to have immediate visual proof of the fact in the form of any pre-Christmas concerts. The point is that their holiday spell is over and there's a lot to be done. There's a film script to be studied and a series of new recording sessions to be fixed up. At one of these they'll be making this year's Fan Club Christmas Record, the boy's annual gift sent out to all currently enrolled members of the Official Beatles Fan Club of Great Britain. No, you can't buy that record and you can't get it anywhere in the world unless you're a fully subscribed club member living within the U.K. And I have to tell you that it's too late to hold open this year's gift list for any latecomers. If you've already sent in your annual subscription you're entitled to your Christmas gift free of charge through the post. But if you've just been *thinking* about joining or renewing let me say here and now that you've already lost the opportunity of getting hold of this year's yuletide bonus for Beatle People!

At five o'clock one morning last week Canadian Beatle Person Elaine Spoun phoned the Fan Club. Well, it was 5.00 a.m. where she was (over on the far side of Canada) but it was just before lunchtime at the club headquarters, Elaine and her boyfriend chatted for over a quarter of an hour and most of the questions were about Paul. Apparently Elaine had stayed up all night specially to put in her call to us—when she first tried to get through the operator told her there was no reply. No wonder—it was just 7.30 a.m. in England.

We're feeling broke this week—but all in a good cause. Club members Frankie Irving (28597) and Jennie Hooley (28670) dropped in to ask for cash contributions to their own special collection for the kids of Aberfan. Hope lots of other club members thought of the same idea in various part of the country.

Freda came down (or up as we Londoners insist upon saying!) from Liverpool the other day full of news from Merseyside. She described in great detail a lovely brass water set which George brought home from India for his mum. And she asked me to make sure I put in something about Bobbie Brown. Beatle People who live in the North West will recall that Bobbie was the original Fan Club Secretary even before The Beatles had recorded

"Love Me Do". Well, Bobbie got married and she's expecting a baby in March. He or she will be enrolled as an Honorary Member as soon as we know what name to write on the card!

WE NEED THREE NEW AREA SECRETARIES—FOR THE CHANNEL ISLANDS, RUTLAND and NORTHUMBERLAND. If you live in any of these areas and you're willing to put in lots of spare-time work we'd love to hear from you. DON'T FORGET TO MARK THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR ENVELOPE WITH THE WORDS "AREA SECRETARY APPLICATION".

In Scotland we have one new Area Secretary appointment to announce. We should have done so last month but Freda ran out of space! Representing LANARKSHIRE from now on will be JAMES PARK of 7 UNION STREET, STONEHOUSE, LANARKSHIRE, so if you live in that part of Scotland why don't you drop Jim a line and let him know you're there!

Freda and everyone else in the Fan Club offices join me in hoping that you have a wonderful Christmas. Freda will be back on these pages in the January issue with your first Fan Club Newsletter of 1967.

Lots of Good Luck,

Anne Collingham

Anne Collingham: Joint National Secretary.

BEATLES TALK

Recorded press conference excerpts transcribed in question and answer form by Frederick James

Q.: A couple of years ago you said you were most influenced by people like Chuck Berry and LaVern Baker. Who do you admire now?

***PAUL:** Byrds, Mamas and Papas.*

***JOHN:** Beach Boys are great. Spoonful are nice. We like a lot of American groups. I still like Chuck Berry. I haven't burnt his records or anything!*

Q.: A disc jockey said the last few bars of "Rain" were recorded backwards. Is this true and, if so, whose idea was it?

***JOHN:** It is true. After the session—it ended about four or five in the morning—I went home with a tape to see what else we could do with the song. I was sort of half asleep and not knowing what I was doing I played the tape backwards on my own machine. That's how it happened.*

Q.: Is there any special significance in the term "Yellow Submarine"?

***PAUL:** No, not really. It's a happy place. We were trying to write a children's song. That was the basic idea and there's nothing more to be read into it.*

Q.: George, do you feel that Indian music will be more influential in pop music in the future?

***GEORGE:** I personally hope there will be more Indian influence generally in music because it's worth it. I'd just like to see more people appreciating it.*

Q.: Do you get tired of this whole hokus pokus—the press conferences, the screaming crowds—and decide you'd just like to sit back on your fat wallets and forget the whole thing?

***JOHN:** When we feel like that we take a fat holiday on our fat wallets. Then we get fed up with holidays and feel like coming out and doing all this again. There's time to fit everything in, you know, a little of everything.*

Q.: What really does inspire young people today?

***JOHN:** I don't know, honestly. What we're doing inspires them to a very limited degree but just to enjoy themselves.*

***PAUL:** They get inspired by people who talk honestly to them. And not by people who take the long way round and talk in riddles. If they believe us about some things it's because we can say it like they think it. Because you know we're exactly the same. We don't pretend to be anything better than we are.*

Q.: Are you going to have a hand in writing your next movie?

***JOHN:** Who? Me? I don't think so. I'd sooner leave somebody else to write our film scripts. I don't know how to do it.*

Q.: Gentlemen, you received medals for assisting the economy a year ago. The economy seems to be in pretty rough shape right now and . . .

***GEORGE:** And we're still assisting it!*

Q.: . . . I was wondering if you have anything to give it a fresh boost?

***JOHN:** We could give them the medals back!*

Q.: Who is that young man with the lengthy haircut to your right rear?

***JOHN:** That's no haircut that's good old Dave. Dave Crosby from The Byrds. A mate of ours.*

Q.: What normal everyday things would you like to do which you cannot because you're a Beatle, Ringo?

***RINGO:** The thing is that when we're off, I live quite normally. It's only on tour that we're The Beatles and it's all like this.*

Q.: Is it my imagination or are you boys doing a little less physical effort on the stage now?

***PAUL:** I don't know. Probably you're right. I mean you manage to sort out after a few years just how much jumping about will produce just how much sweat.*

Favourite Pix No1.

'THEY WONT LET US JOIN THE GOLF CLUB' Says RINGO

I enjoyed interviewing Ringo. For one thing it meant a pleasant drive out of busy, congested Central London, into the sunny, stockbroker belt of Surrey; and, secondly, because Ringo is one of the easiest-to-get-on-with people I know.

As I drove in through the massive, light-coloured, wooden gates, which mark the entrance to the Starkey estate, Ringo walked round the corner of the house. "Park it over there," he said, after smiling a greeting, "come into the house." We walked through the hall and turned left into one of the largest and most sumptuous rooms I have ever seen.

Wall-to-wall, charcoal-grey carpet moved silently under our feet as we walked around. "Take a seat," said Ringo, plonking himself down into an easy chair. He was wearing a plain, casual, light-grey sweater, blue chalk-striped trousers and leather moccasins. The usual gold chain was around his wrist and four rings on his fingers. "O.K., what do you want to ask me?"

SILLY QUESTION

Hoping I was avoiding one of those silly questions that the Beatles get put to them at the start of every interview, I asked, "Do you think you've changed a lot in the past four years?" His face showed no sign that he'd ever heard the question before. "Of course I have," he replied instantly, "who doesn't? I don't think anyone just stands still. If you do nothing else, you get older. But sometimes I'm quite sure it's someone else who they're talking about in the paper."

"The last four years have been so different from anything I knew when I was young. Of course, we had a lot of good times before we made it. It wasn't all a tough grind."

"Do you like your life now?" "Yes, definitely," said Ringo, "I didn't know whether I would like living in the country when we came here, but I find it great. I got fed up with our flat in town because it was impossible to relax. I was always being chased for some reason or other. Here it's different. You can get away from everything. John and I have even tried to go out a bit."

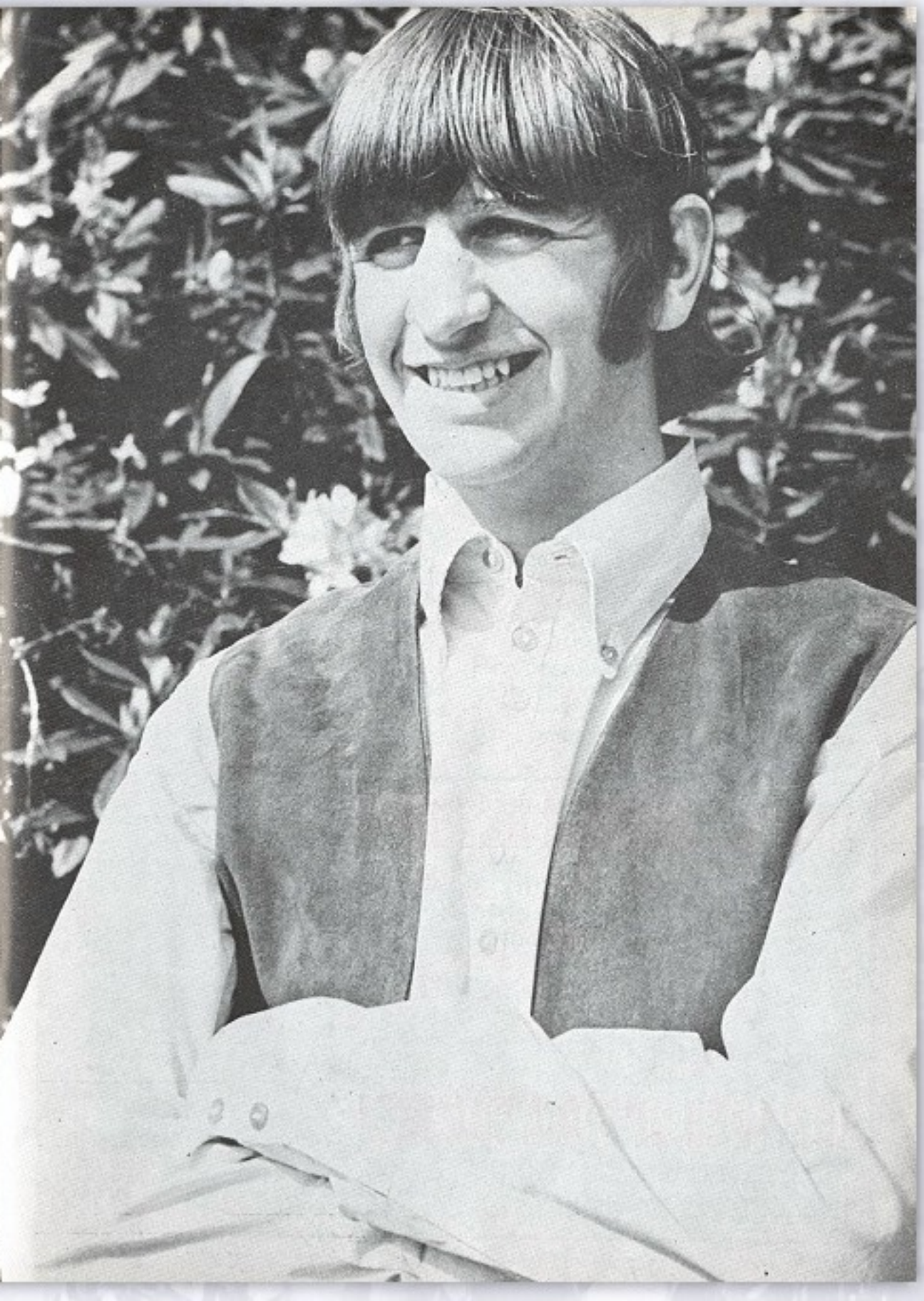
LOCAL PUBS

I was fascinated by this. Did Ringo really mean that he and John had made a habit of visiting the local pubs? "Yes, that's right," Ringo said, "we did just that, but it didn't work. Most of the regulars used to accept us—many of them, of course, were businessmen who didn't care about the Beatles. But you always get the blokes who ruin it by making a fuss."

As I had driven up to the house, I noticed there was a golf course behind it. I asked Ringo if he played there. "No," said Ringo, "I wanted to join but they wouldn't let me. Told me they'd got a three-year waiting list and I'd have to join on the end of the queue. I'd like to get in so that I could kid people it was my golf course at the end of the garden."

I noticed a small keyboard amongst the furnishings, but no drum kit. I asked Ringo if he ever played the drums at home. "Very seldom. I don't believe in practising really. I learnt to play with a group and I believe that I progressed more with them in five weeks than I would have in six months rehearsing by myself in an attic."

I asked him about Zak. Did he like Beatle music? "I don't think he knows the difference



between Beatle music and other music, but he certainly seems to enjoy it. He dances to records now." I suddenly had visions of a little Ringo in an Eton collar and asked Ringo where he'd send him to school. "I haven't thought about it very much yet. I don't particularly like the idea of him going to a public school, but the difficulty is that all the other boys he will play with around here will go to one, and he'll feel different if he doesn't stay with his friends. But then you never know what may happen by the time he's due to start.

RUNS BUILDERS

What did he do with his spare time? I asked him. "I run Bricky Builders, but they don't seem to be making much profit outside the Beatles." "How come?" I asked. "Well, after they'd finished working here, they moved on to John's place, to do something for him and I believe George has got some ideas which he wants to use them for, when they've finished at John's.

"Just one more question", I said. "What about the Beatles' future plans?"

"Everyone keeps asking about that," said Ringo, "the trouble is it's very difficult to answer because we don't have everything cut and dried ourselves. Sometimes I feel that people think that we've got a big list of things to do for the next two years stuck on the wall and we just can't be bothered to tell anyone about it or want to keep it hidden or something. It's just not true. None of us have got any spare material, so John, Paul and George have to write new stuff before we can go into the recording studio each time.

"Also we're waiting on the film. We can't write the film script ourselves, we don't know how, so we have to wait for somebody else to produce one, then we can read it and see if it's O.K. The trouble is, of course, that everyone keeps talking about it. I suppose they can't understand why we haven't made another two films by now. The answer is we don't want to make 'just another film'. The scriptwriters kept on offering us different versions of 'Help' before we found the bloke we've got now.

"That's enough questions," said Ringo, "let's have a cup of tea," and he disappeared out of the room to return a couple of minutes later with a tray, two cups, teapot, a bowl of sugar and a plate of Munch-mallows.

Which suited me fine. I can't think of a better way to end an interview with a Beatle, or this series of interviews with four Beatles, than having tea with Ringo.

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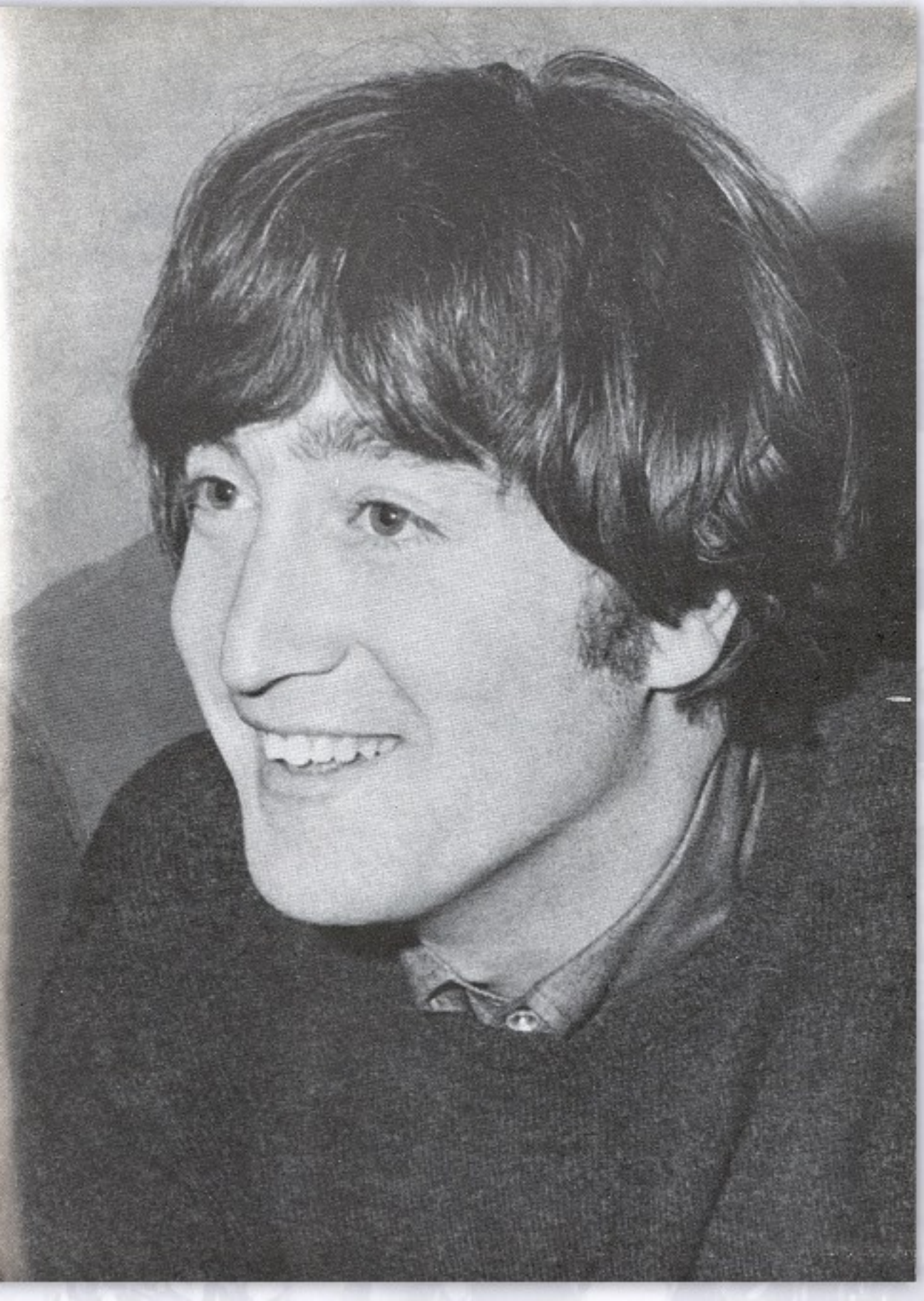


NEIL'S COLUMN

Both John and I have finished our parts in the film and are back home again. That's a bit of an exaggeration really, because I did almost nothing compared with John, who, of course, is one of the leading characters in the picture.

All I did was to dress up in various coloured uniforms and stand around in the distance. Anyone could have done it, including all of you. It certainly didn't require any great acting ability.

STRANGE

People have asked me how the film cast reacted to having a Beatle living with them. It was a bit strange for everybody at first. John didn't want any special privileges or anything, he just wanted to be accepted as one of the blokes in the film. This was a bit difficult for some of the cast during the first week or two, but then everyone realised that he was a normal human being who liked a game of cards and a laugh, and everything was all right after that. He got on particularly well with his officer in the film, Michael Crawford, and they ended up great friends. I don't think he particularly liked having his hair cut and I am pretty certain he's rather glad he can now let it get back to its normal length if he wants to.

I can't tell you what John is like in the film, because Dick Lester wouldn't let anyone see the rushes. He told us that he thought that it put actors off if they saw themselves on the screen in odd scenes. The trouble is that you only see the bits that have been filmed the previous day and these might come from different parts of the film. Also, if the scenes were taken several times, you see them more than once. So if you were particularly bad in one take, it really hurts and even though one knows that this bad take will not be used when the film is finally spliced together, you still can't help feeling really depressed and coming to the conclusion that you can't act at all.

FUNNY

The film is a parody on war, so John is funny at times and serious at others. I think, personally, that he is going to come across very well.

Anyone who thinks that we just had a lot of wild parties on location can think again. All the cast were male, of course; there were no girls around anywhere. I believe one did come out for half a day, but I never even saw her. She was forty years old or something. So all we did in the evenings was sit in our house in Santa Isabel near Almeria and play cards or some other game. Risk was very popular. Altogether it was very uncomfortable.

It was the house that was the most trouble. It was real crazy. It had no water or electricity. It was supposed to have both, of course, when we arrived, but the lights used to come on and go off all the time. Water was obtained from a pump in the yard, but it broke down before we got there, and throughout our stay it was being fixed. I believe they did manage to get it working again the day after we left. Living in that house was rough; but the roughest part of all, for both John and yours truly, was getting up every morning at 7.30. We hated it. But when you are filming you've got to start early otherwise you don't get enough done each day.

LUXURY

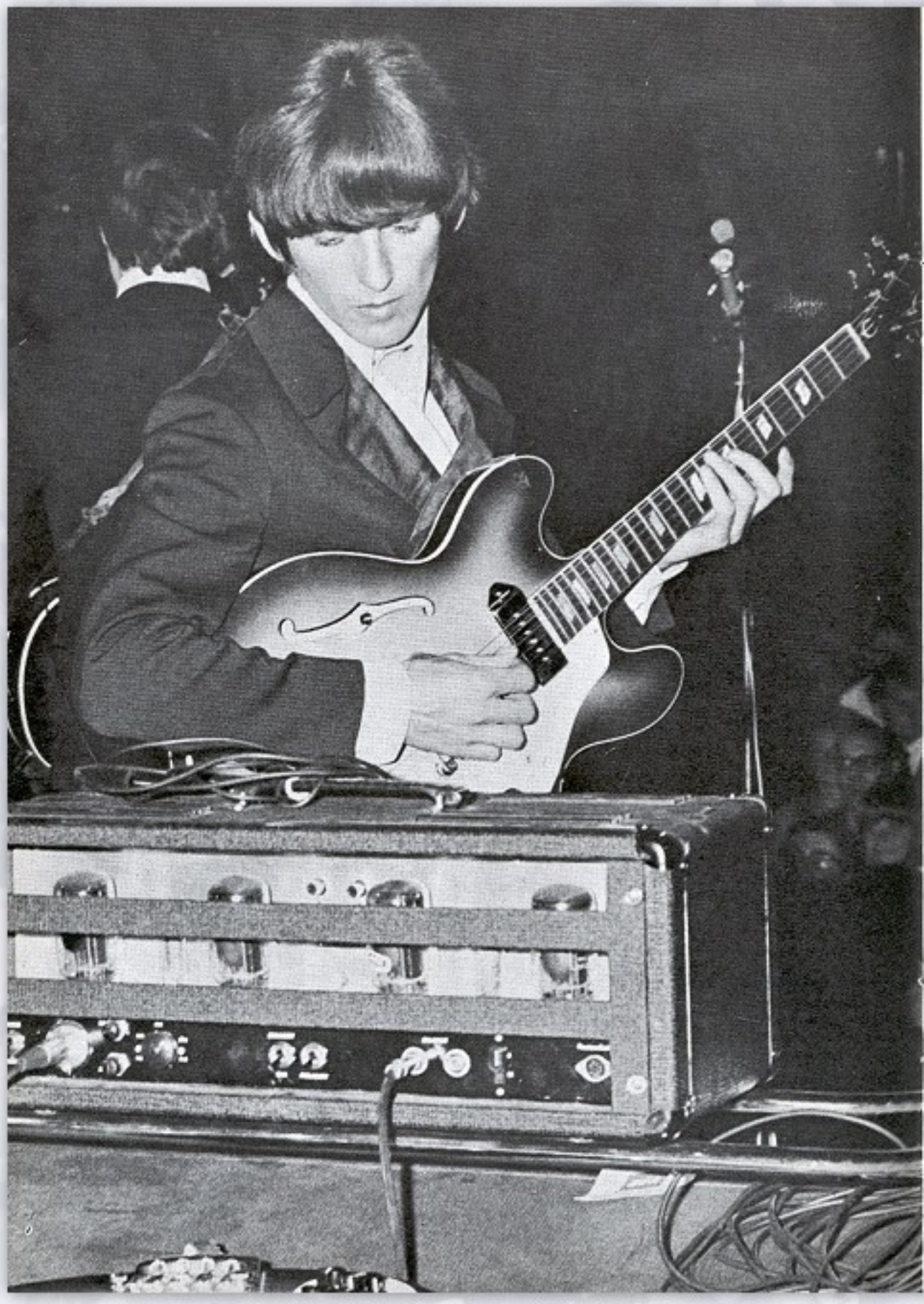
John did have one bit of luxury on location. He had his Rolls Royce there and his own driver, Anthony, to drive him around. Anthony is Welsh, of course, and you should have heard him swearing about the heat, the dust and the flies. All he wanted to do was to get back to Wales, but whenever he started on about it, John would just laugh. As I told you last month, Ringo came to see us. Paul also flew out, but we left the day before he arrived, so we missed him.

It's great to be back home and I'm going to spend the next couple of weeks catching up on my sleep. We've been so out of touch that I hardly know what's in the Top Ten any more.

I've popped round to see George and Ringo since I've been back. George and John are both busy songwriting, getting material ready for the next lot of recording sessions, which they should have started by the time you're reading this. But more of that next month.

TRY-OUT

Paul can't resist a new instrument. When somebody gave him this tubon recently, he immediately had to try it out, and as you can see, he was most intrigued by the unusual sounds that it produced. It's a cylindrical instrument with a small keyboard, and when you play it, it produces different tones, not unlike a small electric organ.



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Ingrid Haglind (15), Midgardsgatan 4, Malmo. S.V. Sweden, wants p.p. in England and Germany.
Terezinha Machado (16), Cel. Fernando Machado, 797 Apto. 12, Porto Alegre-R.G.S., Brazil, wants p.p. anywhere.
Tom Rudolph (16), Vassoesgade 25, Copenhagen N., Denmark, wants p.p. anywhere.
Andrea Sebastian (16), 1534 Queensbury Los Altos, California, U.S.A., wants p.p. anywhere.
Sandy Callan (15), 43 Lochnavar Parkway, Pittsford, New York, U.S.A., wants p.p. anywhere.
Pam Locke (14), 2 Old Bracknell Close, Easthamstead, Bracknell, Berkshire, wants p.p. anywhere.
Bruce Alkerton (17), 735 Cypress Avenue, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, wants p.p. anywhere.
Bob Norenberg (16), 489 Roberta Avenue, Winnipeg 15, Manitoba, Canada, wants p.p. anywhere.
William Burr (16), 1021 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, U.S.A., wants p.p. anywhere.

LETTERS from Beatle PEOPLE

Dear George,

I think that the L.P. "Revolver" is absolutely fantastic but on side 1, just before you start to sing, "Taxman" is it you that goes 1-2-3-4 etc.?

Also on page 6 of the Beatles Monthly Number 40, I see you have a moustache, why on earth did you grow it? I hope you take it off.

I wrote this letter as everytime I look at the letters in the Beatles' Books they are always written by GIRLS! So next time I HOPE there'll be a boy in it.

Richard Inverarity (Age 13),
18 Ardayre Road, Prestwick,
Ayrshire.

George replies:—

Now there's a boy on the letters page—you. John did the counting bit on "Taxman". I grew the moustache because I liked it. But I'm not sure yet whether I'll keep it.

Dear Ringo,

Please could you tell me if you have a white poodle, because on page 25 of Beatles Book 39 there is a dog's head, and it looks exactly like our poodle, Pip.

Love to all Beatles and Neil,
Ruth Sapsford,
57 Goring Road,
Ipswich, Suffolk.

Ringo replies:—

You're right Ruth, I do have a white poodle, but his name is Tiger, not Pip.

Dear Mr. Dean,

Could you (or someone on your staff) ask John and Paul whether this break away from love in their recent songs is their present policy, and if so, whether this is permanent? I like the change, as the love theme has been "done" such a lot in the pop industry. The Beatles' songs have always contained more real and down-to-earth words than others, and now that the theme-stories of their songs are different, their originality will remain with them, as it always has.

Love to all,
Helen Drybrough.
421 Walsgrave Road,
Coventry.

Johnny Dean answers:—

I don't think they've got any special song-writing policy. John and Paul just want to produce better songs that's all—and they're not doing too badly, are they?

Dear Johnny I must thank you, you may be wondering why
For a photo of a gorgeous boy who really caught me eye,
In Beatle Monthly 39 he was the one who stole the scene,
I know you're wondering who it was,
It's not Paul, or John, or George, or Ringo either,
If who it was you're still not sure, turn over to page 24,
It's Ringo's little son of course,

The family group is really gorgeous, now how about doing a favour for us. Print a photo of John and Cyn with their gorgeous baby John Julian.

Brenda Barclay,
144 Everard Drive,
Glasgow, N.1. Scotland.

Johnny Dean replies:—

Yes, that was one of my favourites too, Brenda. I'll certainly try and do as you ask.

Dear Beatles,

In the October issue of The Beatles Monthly Book, there were scads of letters commenting on your American tour. I saw you twice, at Philadelphia (where I got soaked and loved it) and at Shea Stadium. Well, everyone seemed to notice everything, including your shorter hair (which was really nice!) but no-one mentioned anything about how thin you've gotten. At least you looked unusually thin to me—not that you weren't perfect before, but you looked simply marvellous! Have you been dieting or did you just lose? I hate to think you'd been sick or anything like that.

One more thing—when you were in The Warwick in New York, my friend and I were staying in the hotel across the street, and we were directly opposite your suite. We saw your shadows through the windows and we waved like mad, but you never saw us—did you? That's just about the closest we've been to you yet, but it was really thrilling.

Please come back next year, we need you. I need you.

Eileen D'Angelo,
36 Ross Lane, North Haledon,
New Jersey 07508, U.S.A.

P.S.—Congratulations to Freda Kelly, who more than deserves that promotion she received.

Paul replies:—

We were thin Eileen. Touring is very hard work and we usually end up about a stone lighter at the end than when we began.

Dear Beatles,

Just a note to tell you about your popularity in Japan. From the autumn of this year until February next year, there is a vote for the most popular vocal group, band, solo singer, etc. Well, it only started in September. But after a month you've already got to No. 1. Leaving a gap of 1,000 between the second. Then another month passed and you're at the top, this time making the gap bigger to 2,000. I wonder how big the gap will be by the end of February!

By the way, John and Paul, I just love "Here, There and Everywhere" and would like to know which of you wrote it. (Mostly.) Some of my friends say it's Paul. But some say it isn't. Which is correct? And would you also tell me if you have any idea of releasing another L.P. in '66

Love forever and always,
Kumiko Wada,
Hyogo, Japan.

Paul replies:—

I don't think there's much hope now of our finishing another L.P. this year—we're trying hard all the same but it'll be out early on in 1967. Thanks for the info about the poll. We both work on all our songs.

John Lennon forever.

Dearest John,

Why do people keep saying you're going to split up? Why do they say you're getting a divorce or something like that? Why do they say you're going bald. Why do they say a million other things that just ARE NOT true. I think whoever does this sort of thing just wants something to write about, but I'd like to give them something they'll never forget, a (Kapow! Smash! Bang! Wallop! Ouch!) Batman Special. Or better known as a "Lennon left hander", Lennon's special, you know. Wouldn't you?

All my Beatleloving from
a Lennon maniac (a devoted
Beatles' fan forever),
Linda Walker,
35 Rosemount Avenue,
Elland, Yorkshire.

John replies:—

Well, they've got to write something or the papers and magazines would just be full of white spaces wouldn't they?

Dearly beloved, worshipped and idolized Beatles,

After listening to your new L.P., "Revolver", we have decided unanimously that it is completely what it is. Another better-than-the last gear-fab-etc. album.

We have been listening carefully, especially to "Yellow Submarine", and there are a few points that we want clarified Johnfully. "And Our Friends Are All Aboard . . .", and we are brought into a gay party atmosphere. Are you clinking glasses (drinking variety) during that break? And does John (or his disciples) utter "Give us some more brandy?". We scrutinized carefully, and reached a conclusion of ?.

Anxiously awaiting a reply.
Miss Leslie Samuels,
16 East 98th Street, New York,
N.Y. 10029, U.S.A.

John replies:—

Everyone was doing everything. I was probably making the most noise.

Beatles 4ever!

Hi Paul!

I saw you in person at Shea Stadium and man, were you gear. I love you so much more now than ever! You boys put on a great show. I loved every song you sang and man, did I scream?

Are you coming to Boston, Mass. next summer? If so, where can I write and get a ticket? I want to be right in front of you!

Bye for now luv!

Paul fan,
Melissa Nettleton.

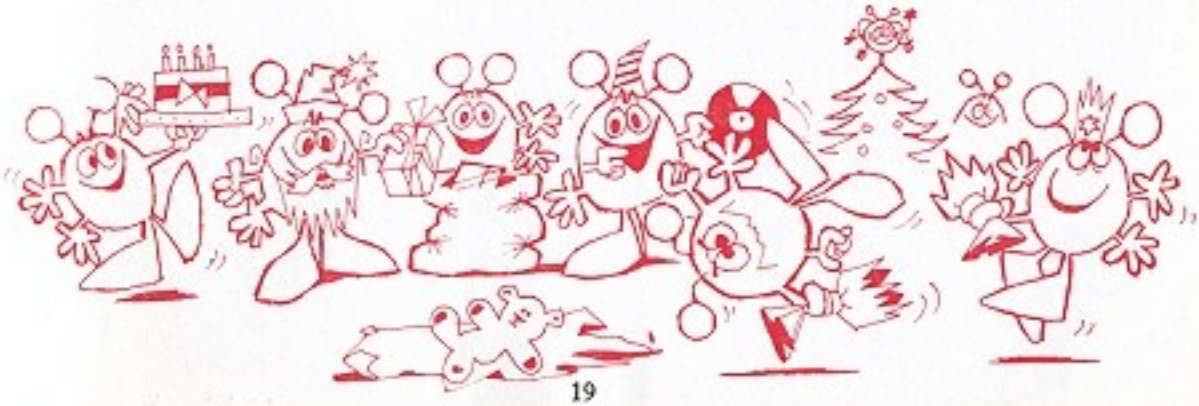
Dear John,

Please, please could you tell us what "Meine Kinde" means. In Beatle Book number 37 it says you were working the audience into a frenzy by getting down on your knees and shouting it. Well, we are in a frenzy because we are DYING to know what it means. Please put us out of our misery.

Lots of love to you all,
Laura Gaffney and Anne Stodter,
Gourock, Renfrewshire,
Scotland.

Johnny Dean replies:—

All German students will know the answer to this one. It means roughly "My little girl".



CINZANO
VERMOUTH

by Billy Shepherd and Johnny Dean

In 1964 John Lennon had bought a Rolls Royce for himself, though he vowed he wouldn't ever be keen on driving. But generally speaking the Beatles bought nothing for each other at Christmas time. John delivered the "message" behind their thinking . . . "We've never bothered about giving each other presents, and there's no point in doing it now that we're in the money and can afford everything we need."

Good Results

But there were gifts galore for the Beatles . . . presents from their fans. And they had another happy surprise when the results of the usual December poll organised by a top musical newspaper were announced.

They literally galloped away with the "British Vocal Group" section . . . *New Musical Express* readers gave them 13,161 votes and the Rolling Stones were left well behind with only a half of that total. The rest were nowhere. But every section, apart from that for girl singers, represented how strong the Beatles were at this Yuletide scene of 24 months ago.

"Hard Day's Night" was the second biggest favourite record of the year. The boys were fifth in the instrumental unit department. John Lennon was second to Cliff in the "British Vocal Personality" second . . . no mean feat for a group member. They were top group in the world by a heck of a lot from the Rolling Stones—John and Paul each got in the top twelve male world solo singers.

Just as a matter of interest, it was the Everly Brothers who succumbed to the Beatles in the World Group section the previous year. All the big record stars in the world were badly mauled once the Liverpool lads built their popularity.

This pic was taken whilst the Beatles were rehearsing for their 1964 Christmas Show at the Odeon, Hammersmith.

We know how readers like to recall the charts of a year or so ago . . . and you might like to know the groups involved in the charts just two years back, at this Christmas-time. The Beatles topped with "I Feel Fine" . . . then there were the Rolling Stones, the Kinks, Freddie and the Dreamers, Wayne Fontana and the Mindbenders, Pretty Things, Shadows, Searchers, Rockin' Berries, Herman's Hermits, the Four Pennies, Georgie Fame and the Blue Flames, Sounds Orchestral. You don't need to be reminded of the ones that dropped out of the reckoning since then—or the ones that have stayed the course. It just pinpoints, once again, the tremendous popularity of the Beatles.

Christmas, 1964, for the Beatles was a period of planning for their special Xmas show. But, as ever, pop papers looked for an angle, trying to recall personal anecdotes about the boys. We specially liked the one about the boys when they were flying from Montreal to Key West, Florida. Ringo, at ease for about the first time on the aircraft, hurled a cushion at somebody else in the party. In no time, a pillow fight de-luxe started, while outside the snow and hail peppered the plane.

Suddenly a voice came over the intercommunication unit. "You're behaving like a bunch of children. This plane is in danger of crashing unless you sit quietly. It is vital that you fasten your seatbelts. . . ."

Everybody did just that. There was a sort of Cathedral quiet over the whole travelling

unit. Then, from the flight-deck, appeared the well-known figure of Paul McCartney. It was his voice using the inter-com. And that grin of satisfaction on his face expressed his delight at having scored, and scored big, over his mates!

Anyway, back to the Christmas scene itself. George was happily esconsed in his bungalow in Surrey. John, of course, had his house, but George found that his "pad", costing some £20,000, was easier to adapt because the previous owners had laid it out well.

Proud Owner

George was a very proud houseowner. He showed us round, round a spotlessly clean home, fitted with the very latest in electronic devices. It was mostly decorated in pure white, and the furniture was very mixed in design. He usually had plenty of flowers on show in each room. The bathroom was somethin' else! Absolutely modern, very spacious, pink-tiled. George owned up that he'd made quite a few alterations to this department.

"I really love comfort," he said. "I enjoy staying in big hotels but there is always the feeling that something—maybe it's just the home business is missing. Here I have all the comfort of, say, the George Cinq Hotel in Paris, but I know also that it's home."

Looked great—all of it. There was a massive deep-freeze with massive hunks of pork and lamb on show. Said George: "I like fairly simple food, always have. But I find I can't get away from the record-player long enough to do my own cooking so I have someone who looks after me."

So George relaxed in comfort and Christmas got nearer and everything was fine, except for the fan-club secretaries. They were knee-deep in presents and cards and even requests from fans all over the world who wanted, "DESPERATELY", to get hold of Ringo's tonsils. The drum-star had, of course, by then been divested of his tonsils, in University College Hospital, and at least a thousand fans wanted them, pickled preferably. And there were many others who expressed their fears that his voice would be changed by the operation. Twelve fans sent Ringo a cable: "You've really started something here in America. Everybody now wants their tonsils out. But please don't let them hurt your nose."

He did manage to take time off to record the usual special message of cheer for the fans. There were no less than 70,000 of these special records sent out in Christmas, 1964, and that was actually five thousand more than the total fan-club membership!

Oh, yes—something about the Christmas under review is worth recalling. When it comes to Christmas shopping, it's obviously much more difficult for a Beatle than for any other man on earth. But Paul, John and Ringo devised their own methods of getting round the usual scenes. They more or less took over a big Knightsbridge store, near Ringo's flat, from 6.30 in one evening. There were five assistants, and a doorman . . . just to serve the three Beatles.

We'll be talking about the Beatle Christmas show in the next edition . . . it's worth saving because of the incredible successes it enjoyed. But even before it was open, there was a tremendous tribute to the boys, given at an annual Showmanship Luncheon of the Rank Organisation. Managing director Kenneth Winkles rose in the chair-of-honour at the plush Dorchester Hotel and paid tribute to the Beatles' successes of the previous year—and for their film "A Hard Day's Night".

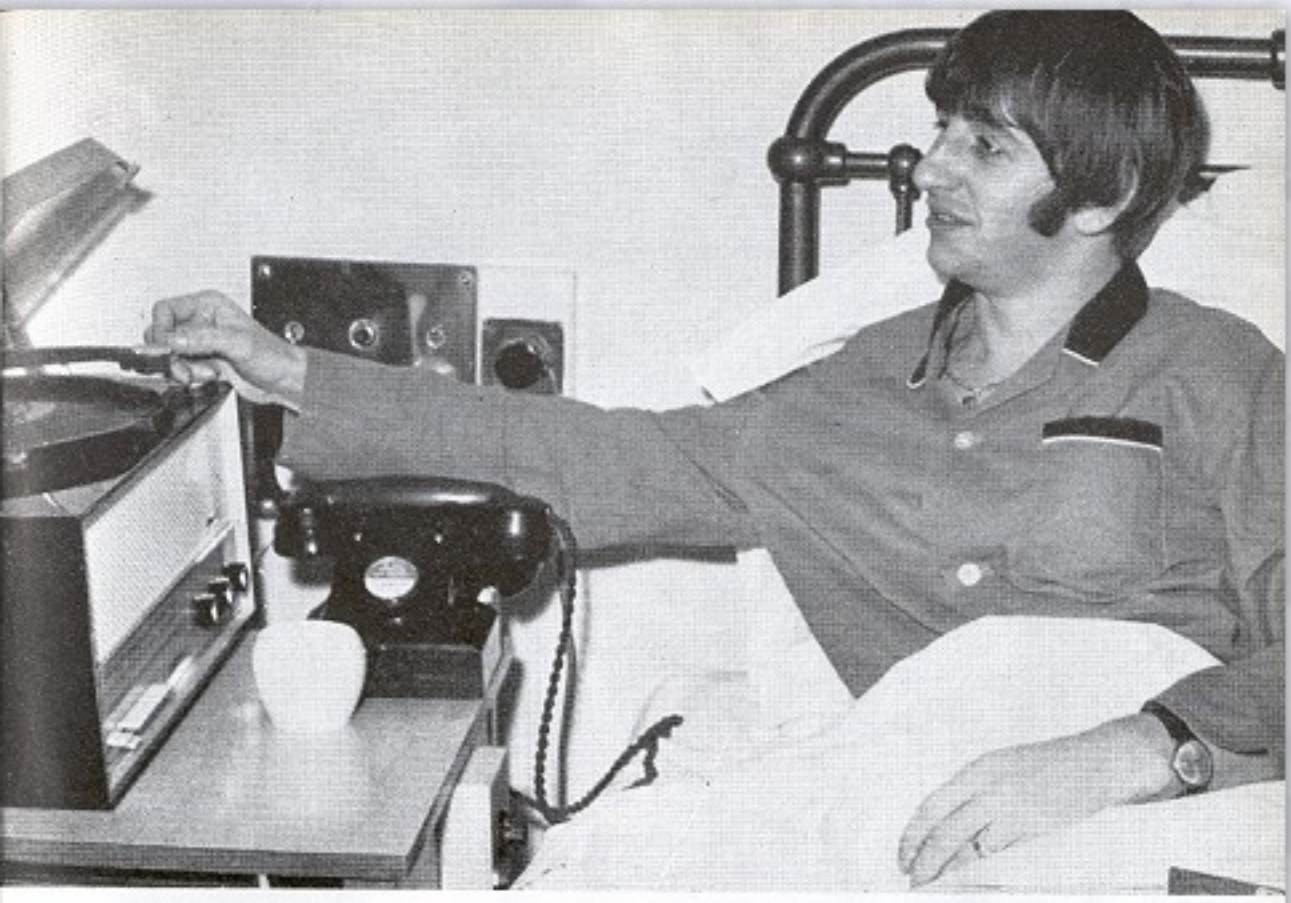
He said: "The Beatles, by their efforts and their popularity, have helped the organisation turn the tide from a loss to a profit. And it has enabled us to continue with our policy of putting out pop-show one-nighters round the country. . . ."

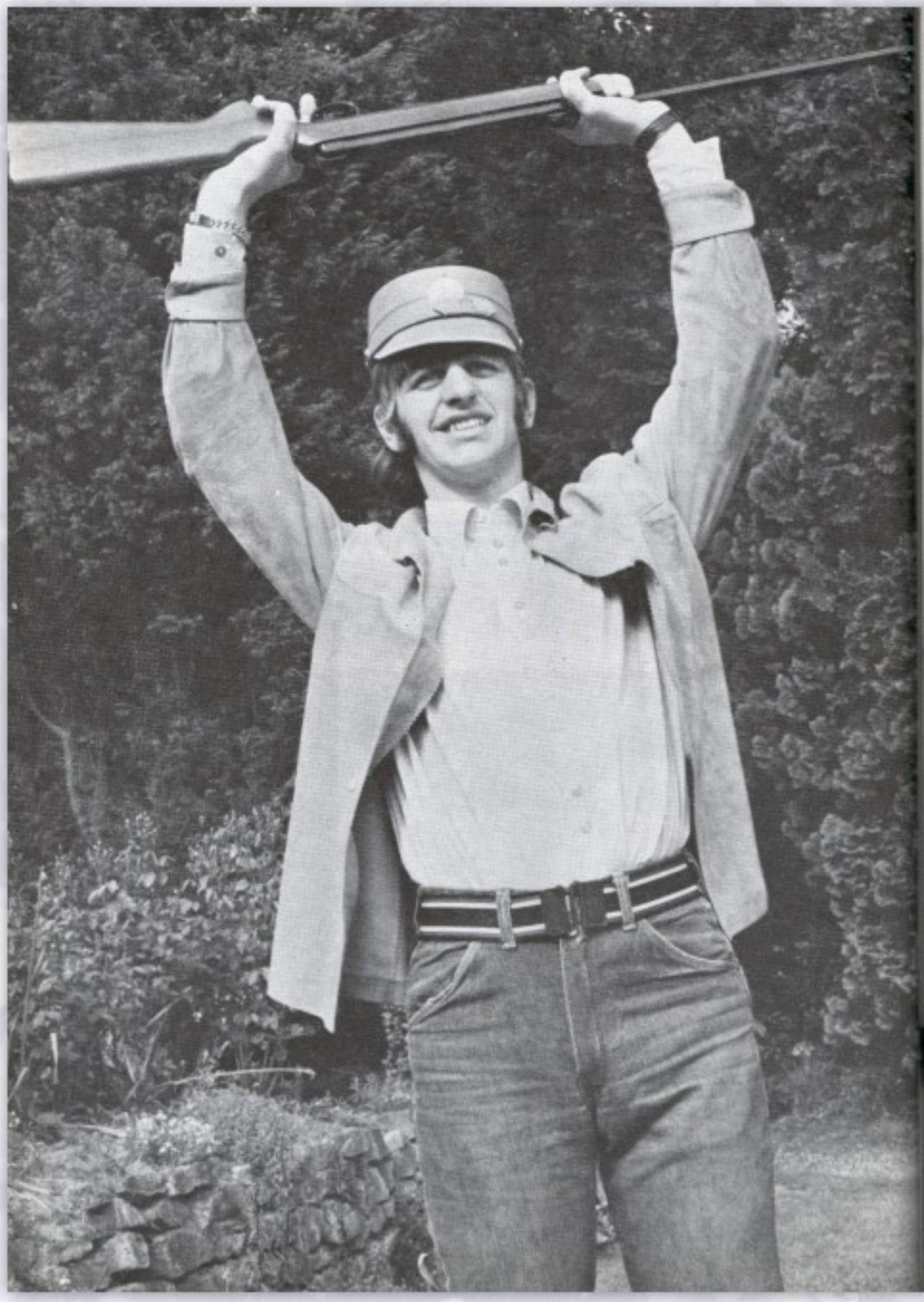
So the Beatles even handed out their own Christmas presents to the big-business of show-business!

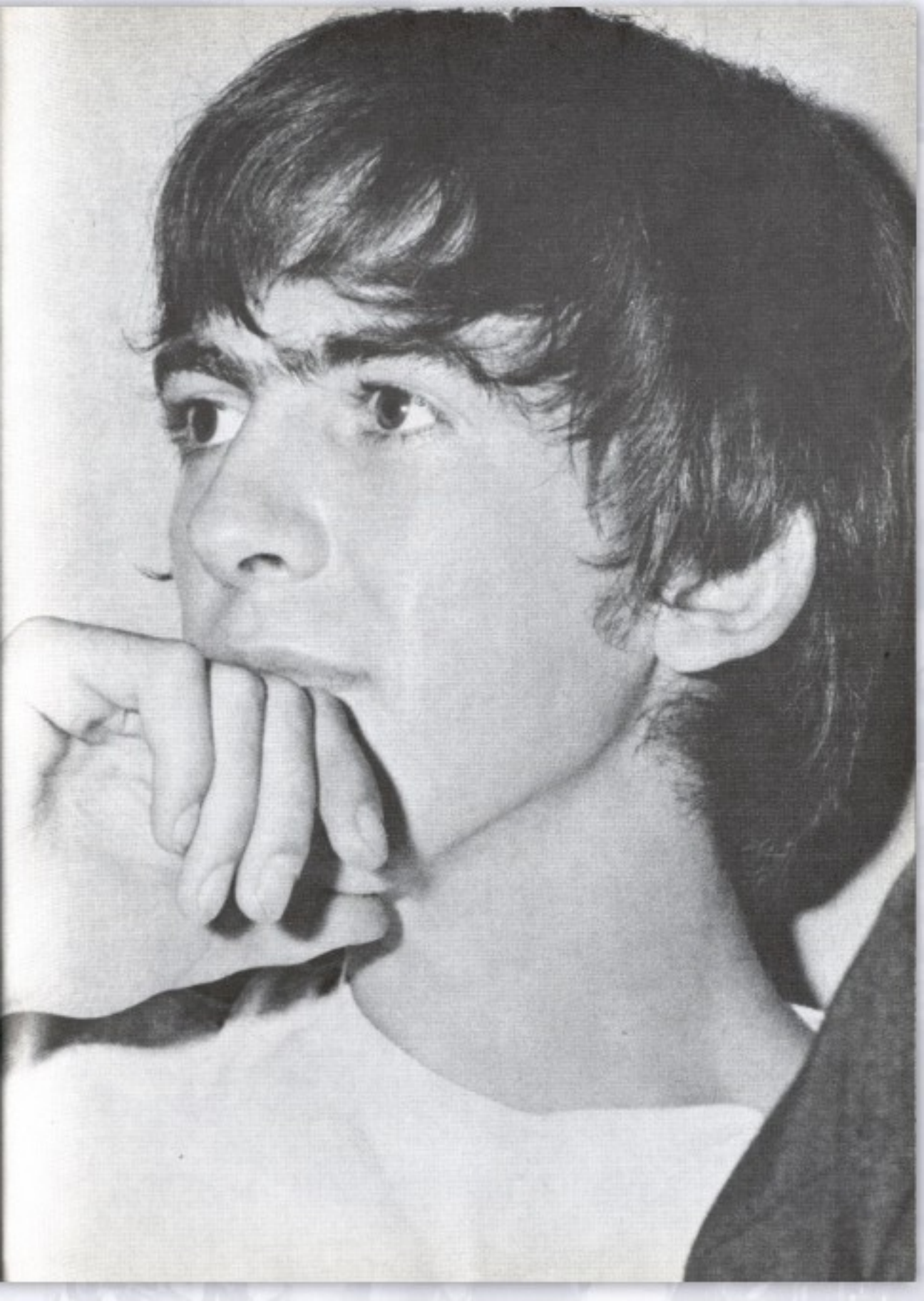
Christmas, then, was largely a matter of work and planning for the Beatles back in 1964. This year, it's different. They are able to take a bit of time off, to be with their families.

And when the festivities have worn off, we hope you'll join us for a few more behind-the-spotlight revelations next month.

Top right: Ringo recovering from his tonsils operation.
Bottom right: Another '64 Xmas show pic. That's D.J. Jimmy Savile on the left in the white gorilla suit.







HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

Written and Composed by **JOHN LENNON**

and **PAUL McCARTNEY**

To lead a better life I need my love to be here

Here making each day of the year, changing my life with a wave of her hand
Nobody can deny that there's something there

There running my hand through her hair, both of us thinking how good it can be
Someone is speaking but she doesn't know he's there

I want her everywhere and if she's beside me I know I need never care
But to love her is to meet her everywhere

Knowing that love is to share each one believing that love never dies
Watching her eyes and hoping I'm always there
CHORUS

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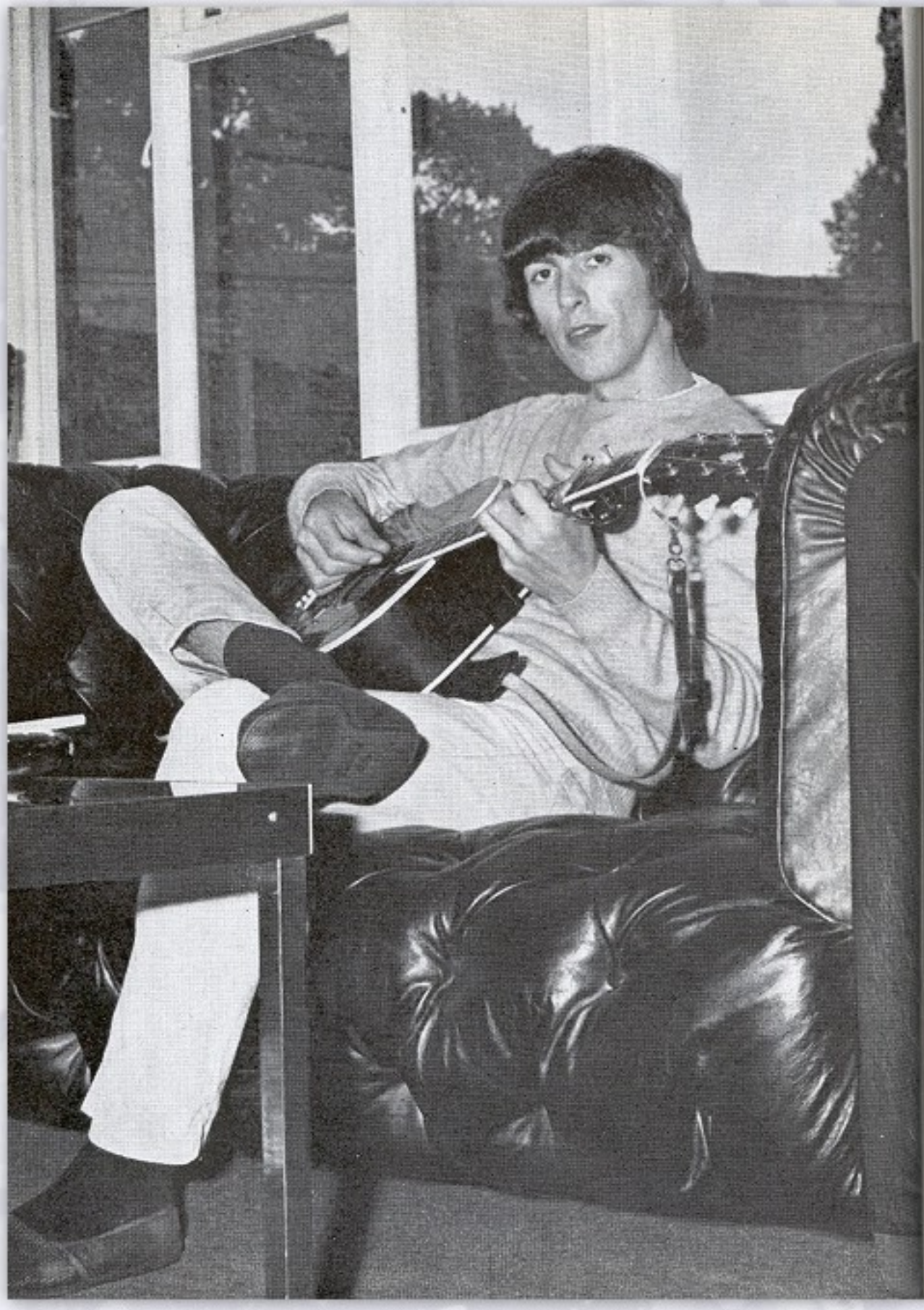
Left: John joins Paul on the tubon. It looks as though they're both starting to get the hang of it.



Two from John

John, George and Paul have all been busy on new songs for their current recording sessions and I understand from John that he has two numbers finished, one of which he thinks might be suitable for a single, the other for an L.P. But anything can happen once the Beatles get into the recording studios.

MAL WENT TOO

Just as George, John and Ringo returned to this country from their various trips abroad, Paul took off for Spain. He had intended to tour, start off by visiting John on location in Almeria before flying to Kenya. But John finished shooting earlier than expected and returned to England before Paul had a chance to meet up with him. Mal travelled with Paul both to Spain and on safari in Kenya.

MORE LESSONS

George managed to fly back into England without anyone recognising him. In fact, no one realised he was back until he went to meet Ravi Shankar, who flew into England in early November for some concert work. George is making the most of his visit to carry on the tough work of learning to play the sitar.

BEST COLLECTION EVER

Parlophone are to release a special Beatles album in time for the Christmas rush. Titled "Oldies", it must contain the most fantastic collection of hit tunes ever to be gathered together in two long grooves. The only title which has not been released before in this country is "Bad Boy", an up-tempo number written by Larry Williams. It was recorded at E.M.I., St. John's Wood, on May 10th, 1965, and was released on Capitol Record's album, "Beatles Six". Full list of titles and original release dates: "She Loves You" (August 1963), "From Me To You" (April 1963), "We Can Work It Out" (December 1965), "Help" (July 1965), "Michelle" (From "Rubber Soul", L.P. December 1965), "Yesterday" (From "Help", L.P. August 1965), "I Feel Fine" (November 1964), "Yellow Submarine" (August 1966) "Can't Buy Me Love" (March 1964), "Bad Boy" (December 1966), "Day Tripper" (December 1965), "A Hard Day's Night" (July 1964), "Ticket To Ride" (April 1965), "Paperback Writer" (June 1966), "Eleanor Rigby" (August 1966), "I Want To Hold Your Hand" (November 1963).

PAUL'S PIANO

As you all know, Paul has had a special music room built into his new St. John's Wood home. It contains many unusual things but the centre-piece is a mini piano. As far as size, contents and sound go, it is just an ordinary mini piano, but the outside has been painted with a fantastic pop-art design in every colour of the rainbow.

TREE HOUSE

Ringo has got just about everything in his garden, including a tree-house! Yes, it's a proper little wooden hut, which has been built about 20 feet from the ground in the branches of a big beech tree.

Printed by The Thanet Press, Union Crescent, Margate, Kent, England.
Distributors: Surridge, Dawson & Co. Ltd., 135-142 New Kent Road, S.E.1. Telephone: Rodney 5480.

Above: Ringo relaxes.
Left: "What do you think of that sound?" Paul asks the other Beatles.

The 9th Beatles Book Competition

DRAW A BEATLE

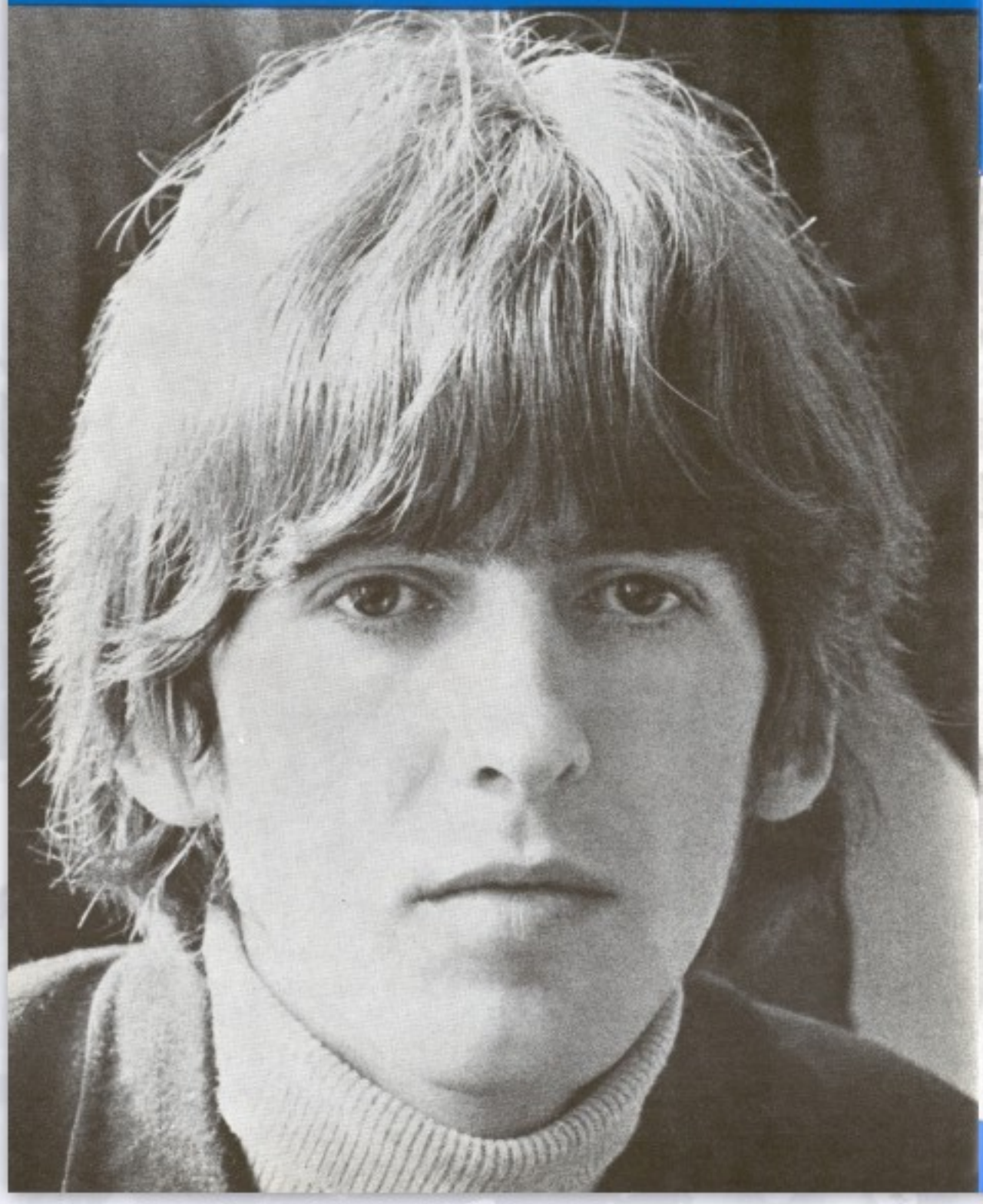
1st Prize £30 2nd Prize £20 3rd Prize £10
Plus £2 each for the 5 runners-up

TO ENTER

DRAW EITHER ONE, TWO, THREE, OR ALL BEATLES ON A PIECE OF PAPER OR CARD IN PENCIL, INK, CRAYON, OILS, CHARCOAL, IN FACT, ANYTHING YOU LIKE. YOUR ENTRY MAY BE HUMOROUS, STRAIGHTFORWARD, OR EVEN A CARTOON, BUT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO DRAWINGS WHICH ARE ORIGINAL AND ARE NOT COPIED FROM A PHOTOGRAPH OR DRAWING, ALREADY IN EXISTENCE OF THE BEATLES.

RULES

1. The piece of paper or card on which you have done your drawing must not be larger than 10 in. × 8 in.
2. Print your name and address in block capitals clearly on the reverse side of your entry.
3. The Judges' decision is final.
4. Any number of entries may be sent in by one person.
5. None of the drawings or paintings sent in will be returned.
6. Results will be announced in Beatles Book No. 43 on sale February 1st, 1967.
7. **SEND YOUR ENTRY TO: NINTH BEATLES BOOK COMPETITION, 36-38 WESTBOURNE GROVE, LONDON, W.2, TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 10th, 1967.**

The Beatles BOOK

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